



## The Value of Danish Military Levying Rolls/Lægdsruller

The Danish Military Levying Rolls are records of all males who could be enlisted for service in the army or navy. They can be a wonderful tool helping any person trying to gather Danish families. Through these records you might be able to identify a birthplace, the present place of residence, age, any injuries, and follow a male ancestor from his birth for many years from place to place.

This is especially helpful for the time period 1801-1834 when there are no census records.

### Objectives for this class are to answer the following questions:

- What are Military Levying Rolls?
- What information do they contain?
- Where are they found?
- What are their importance in Danish Genealogical Research?

### Military Background:

Pre-1700: Regular army, mostly volunteers—primarily foreigners

1701-1733: Supplemented with National Militia: drafted from rural areas

1733-1788: Compulsory residence (Stavnsbandet/stavnsbåndet). Males 14-36-ish were tied to the manor on which they were born. Needed permission from the landowner to move away.

Landowners supplied the militia with men: the largest landowner had responsibility to keep a current list. He was able to (responsible for) choose soldiers from the men living on his land.

1788: compulsory residence abolished

After 1788: National Militia was integrated into the regular army

By 1803 the army comprised of mainly young men drafted from rural areas

### Lægd:

The word “Lægd” comes from the Danish word “sammenlægning” or combination. The lægd has approximately the same borders as the parishes, and was supposed to make one soldier available (one soldier per “so many” barrels of grain; that varied, 40-80). Each Danish parish had a lægd number, and each soldier had two numbers; one old and one new number.

There are various military records: Army, Navy, Sønderjylland, and City military records.

There are two types of levying rolls; main or regular rolls (hovedruller) and entry or supplemental rolls (tilgangsruller).

**Main/regular (hovedrulle):**

- Complete list of conscript from each district
- Taken every 3 years
- Included a supplemental list
- The soldier's number did not have any letter before the number (258, 145)

**Entry/supplemental roll (tilgangsruile):**

- Males born that year or last part of the previous year
- Taken every year
- Males who moved in
- Had to have been registered somewhere else before coming
- The soldier's number did have a letter in front of the number (B104, A58, M119)

**Exceptions:**

- Nobility
- Large landowners
- Parish ministers
- Parish clerks
- School teachers
- Other prominent men
- Bornholm

**The registered removed if:**

- Health failed
- Added responsibilities
- Other "legitimate" reasons

**Freedom Letters: A letter showing a person's exemptions from military service**

- Old farmer's only son: GMS (gammel mands eneste søn)
- Ill farmer's only son; SMS (syg mands eneste søn)
- Farmer's widow's only son GBES (gaardbrugerens eneste søn)
- Married men with children
- Farmer who has bought a farm

**When a man was registered and removed:**

	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
<b>1788-1808</b>	0 year of age	36 years of age
<b>1808-1849</b>	0 year of age	45 years of age
<b>1849-1869</b>	14/15* years of age—could vary	38 years of age
<b>1869-1912</b>	17/18** years of age—could vary	38 years of age
<b>1912-</b>	18 years of age	26 years of age

\*-The year the boy was confirmed

\*\* - The year the boy turned 18

### Military Levying Rolls content: Army

- Name of conscript
- Name of father (or mother if illegitimate)
- Age
- Place of birth
- Residence
- Height
- Old and new numbers
- Miscellaneous information
- Exemptions from service
- Disabilities
- Notice of death

### Military levying Rolls: Navy

- Name of conscript
- Age
- Place of birth
- Residence
- Height
- Old and new numbers
- Miscellaneous information
- Marital information
- Number of children

### Headings in Military Levying Rolls (Lægdsruller)

Gl. Løbe No. (Old Serial No.)	Nye Løbe no. (New Serial No.)	Fædrenes og Sønnernes Navne (The names of the fathers and the sons)	Sønnernes Fødested (The son's birth place)	Alder Aar (Age, Year)	Højde Tommer (Height, Inches)	Nu havened opholdssted (Present residence)	Vedtegninger (Misc)
		Peter Jensen					
280	221	Christian Peter Hermand	Østbirk	26	63 ½	Wrenge	Sessioned 1830
		Hans Hansen					
<del>281</del>	<del>222</del>	<del>Knud Erik</del>	<del>Horsens</del>	<del>16</del>	<del>60</del>	<del>Vrenge</del>	
		<b>99 B 310</b>					

The number of the new military district (parish) Knud (and his family) is moving to *within* this county, and the number he will be found on the supplemental roll B. The new parish has the lægd number of 99, and the soldier's new number on the supplemental roll is B310. He is crossed out because he is moving.

## Sønderjylland Military:

Border changes: Denmark-Germany

- Duchy of Slesvig has been under the rule of the King of Denmark
- Early military records followed the rest of Denmark. In 1864 Prussia took over Slesvig and the records followed the political change

Records	Description
Alphabetical List	Alphabetical lists are the most important record to use when researching in military records in Sønderjylland. After 1865, when a man turned 20 years old, he was listed in the alphabetical military lists of the kommune he resided in, under the year he was born. The alphabetical lists are similar to the regular Danish Lægdsruller, but contain much more information
Stamruller	Stamruller were the “rough drafts” of the alphabetical lists. There are few of these records available today as they were not always well preserved.
Restantenlister	Restantenlister are absentee records of those men who, unlawfully, did not report for military duty.
Rechercher-sager	These records are the records of the investigations conducted on individuals listed in the Restantenlister
Nachweisunglister	Record over the military conscripts who emigrated from the country without permission
Værnepligtskort	A record of soldiers from Sønderjylland who served in the German military during World War I

### Good to Know!

If a man moved around within the same county/district he was first registered in, his military record did not move. You will still find the record in the original kommune. If he moved outside the county the record will be registered with his new kommune under his birth year.

Use these records as a supplement to the alphabetical lists.

The alphabetical lists will usually make a reference to these lists. Restantenlister will also make reference to any other military record about the individual.

In these records you will find information about where the individual resided, when he emigrated, how he emigrated from the county, letters sent to family members left behind, and other miscellaneous records

### Cities:

- From 1843 incorporated cities kept a levying roll. Only males moving into the city (already registered) were still obligated to serve. Copenhagen kept levying rolls of males previously registered elsewhere as early as 1832

### Finding the records:

Remember the records are kept on the County level!

**sa.dk (arkivalieronline).** Go to home page by typing in to your preferred browser: sa.dk



On the opening page you will see the following.

- Click on the “down arrow and select *“Find din slægt”*. Click on that.
- Scroll down and click on *“Lægdsruller fra hele landet”*.
- Choose *“Generalkrigskommissariatet angående Udskrivingsvesenet”...Lægdsruller (1789-1864)*

This will bring up a long list of Lægdsruller organized by counties in alphabetical order (including the old county names). Select your county and time period and click on your choice. This will take you to the original records. You will now need to find the lægdnumber of the parish you would like to search in. The numbers are usually on each page’s top corner, but can also be found on the top of the page in the middle☺. If you have not already found your ancestor in the military records you will need to go page by page until you do. After that you will have his new number to follow him forward in time, or the old number to trace him back in time.

## A Few Useful Websites:

- Danish Military Levying Rolls (Lægdsruller):  
[http://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Danish\\_Military\\_Levying\\_Rolls\\_\(L%C3%A6gdsruller\)](http://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Danish_Military_Levying_Rolls_(L%C3%A6gdsruller))
- Lægdsruller from Copenhagen:  
<http://www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/other/other-collection/6>
- Finding the lægd number for your parish:  
[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Denmark:\\_Military\\_Levy\\_Numbers\\_\(L%C3%A6gdsnummer\)](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Denmark:_Military_Levy_Numbers_(L%C3%A6gdsnummer))
- Lægdsruller-kom godt i gang!:  
<http://www.sa.dk/brug-arkivet/laer/intro-laegdsruller>

Sønderjylland military records:

[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Military\\_Records\\_for\\_S%C3%B8nderjylland](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Military_Records_for_S%C3%B8nderjylland)